

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A computer-implemented method, comprising:
 providing an electronic document including content having a visual composition, the
 electronic document including one or more markers having locations in the content, the
 markers not being represented in the visual composition of the content;
 receiving input specifying one or more locations in the electronic document;
 in response to the input, detecting the presence of one or more markers associated
 with one or more locations of the specified locations; and
 displaying a visual representation of the detected markers.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein:
 the input specifying one or more locations includes input directing that a cursor be
 placed at a location in the electronic document.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein:
 the input specifying one or more locations includes input selecting a portion of the
 electronic document.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein:
 the portion of the electronic document comprises a word, sentence, or paragraph in
 the electronic document.

5. The method of claim 3, wherein:
 the detected markers include a plurality of markers having different locations in the
 selected portion.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein:
 the visual representation of the detected markers includes one or more graphical
 elements representing the detected markers.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein:

2 displaying the visual representation of the detected markers includes inserting the
3 graphical elements representing the detected markers into the visual composition of the
4 content at the locations of the detected markers.

1 8. The method of claim 6, wherein:

2 displaying the visual representation of the detected markers includes separately
3 displaying the graphical elements and the visual composition of the content.

1 9. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

2 displaying a visual representation of data or attributes associated with the detected
3 markers.

1 10. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

2 receiving input navigating the cursor through the location of the detected markers;

3 and

4 in response to the input, displaying a change in a location of a cursor relative to the
5 location of the one or more markers.

1 11. The method of claim 10, further comprising:

2 hiding the visual representation of the detected markers when the cursor has
3 navigated past the location of the detected markers.

1 12. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

2 in response to detecting the presence of one or more markers, displaying a list of
3 functions associated with one or more of the detected markers.

1 13. The method of claim 10, further comprising:

2 receiving an input selecting a function in the list of functions; and
3 processing a marker according to the selected function.

1 14. The method of claim 2, wherein:

2 the input directing that a cursor be placed at a location in the electronic document
3 includes input moving a mouse pointer to a location in the electronic document.

1 15. The method of claim 2, wherein:

2 the input directing that a cursor be placed at a location in the electronic document
3 includes one or more cursor key strokes.

1 16. A computer-implemented method, comprising:

2 providing an electronic document including content having a visual composition, the
3 electronic document including a plurality of markers having locations in the content, the
4 plurality of markers not being represented in the visual composition of the content;

5 receiving input specifying one or more locations in the electronic document;

6 in response to the input, detecting the presence of a plurality of markers associated
7 with a location of the specified locations; and

8 displaying a visual representation of the detected markers.

1 17. The method of claim 16, wherein:

2 the visual representation of the detected markers includes a plurality of graphical
3 elements representing the detected markers.

1 18. The method of claim 17, wherein:

2 displaying the visual representation of the detected markers includes inserting the
3 plurality of graphical elements representing the detected markers into the visual composition
4 of the content at the location of the detected markers.

1 19. The method of claim 17, wherein:

2 displaying the visual representation of the detected markers includes separately
3 displaying the plurality of graphical elements and the visual composition of the content.

1 20. The method of claim 16, further comprising:

displaying a visual representation of data or attributes associated with the detected markers.

21. The method of claim 16, further comprising:

receiving input navigating the cursor through the location of the detected markers;
and

in response to the input, displaying a change in a location of a cursor relative to the location of the markers.

22. The method of claim 21, further comprising:

hiding the visual representation of the detected markers when the cursor has navigated past the location of the detected markers.

23. A computer product, tangibly stored on a computer-readable medium, the product comprising instructions operable to cause a programmable processor to:

provide an electronic document including content having a visual composition, the electronic document including one or more markers having locations in the content, the markers not being represented in the visual composition of the content;

receive input specifying one or more locations in the electronic document;

in response to the input, detect the presence of one or more markers associated with one or more locations of the specified locations; and

display a visual representation of the detected markers.

24. The computer program product of claim 23, wherein:

the input specifying one or more locations includes input directing that a cursor be placed at a location in the electronic document.

25. The computer program product of claim 23, wherein:

the input specifying one or more locations includes input selecting a portion of the electronic document.

1 26. The computer program product of claim 25, wherein:
2 the portion of the electronic document comprises a word, sentence, or paragraph in
3 the electronic document.

1 27. The computer program product of claim 25, wherein:
2 the detected markers include a plurality of markers having different locations in the
3 selected portion.

1 28. The computer program product of claim 23, wherein:
2 the visual representation of the detected markers includes one or more graphical
3 elements representing the detected markers.

1 29. The computer program product of claim 28, wherein the instructions operable to
2 cause a programmable processor to display a visual representation include instructions
3 operable to cause a programmable processor to:
4 insert the graphical elements representing the detected markers into the visual
5 composition of the content at the locations of the detected markers.

1 30. The computer program product of claim 28, wherein the instructions operable to
2 cause a programmable processor to display a visual representation include instructions
3 operable to cause a programmable processor to:
4 separately display the graphical elements and the visual composition of the content.

1 31. The computer program product of claim 23, wherein the computer program product
2 further comprises instructions operable to cause a programmable processor to:
3 display a visual representation of data or attributes associated with the detected
4 markers.

1 32. The computer program product of claim 23, wherein the computer program product
2 further comprises instructions operable to cause a programmable processor to:
3 receive input navigating the cursor through the location of the detected markers; and

4 in response to the input, display a change in a location of a cursor relative to the
5 location of the one or more markers.

1 33. The computer program product of claim 32, wherein the computer program product
2 further comprises instructions operable to cause a programmable processor to:
3 hide the visual representation of the detected markers when the cursor has navigated
4 past the location of the detected markers.

1 34. The computer program product of claim 23, wherein the computer program product
2 further comprises instructions operable to cause a programmable processor to:
3 in response to detecting the presence of one or more markers, display a list of
4 functions associated with one or more of the detected markers.

1 35. The computer program product of claim 32, wherein the computer program product
2 further comprises instructions operable to cause a programmable processor to:
3 receive an input selecting a function in the list of functions; and
4 process a marker according to the selected function.

1 36. The computer program product of claim 24, wherein:
2 the input directing that a cursor be placed at a location in the electronic document
3 includes input moving a mouse pointer to a location in the electronic document.

1 37. The computer program product of claim 24, wherein:
2 the input directing that a cursor be placed at a location in the electronic document
3 includes input moving the cursor.

1 38. A computer product, tangibly stored on a computer-readable medium, the product
2 comprising instructions operable to cause a programmable processor to:
3 provide an electronic document including content having a visual composition, the
4 electronic document including a plurality of markers having locations in the content, the
5 plurality of markers not being represented in the visual composition of the content;

6 receive input specifying one or more locations in the electronic document;
7 in response to the input, detect the presence of a plurality of markers associated with a
8 location of the specified locations; and
9 display a visual representation of the detected markers.

1 39. The computer program product of claim 38, wherein:
2 the visual representation of the detected markers includes a plurality of graphical
3 elements representing the detected markers.

1 40. The computer program product of claim 39, wherein the instructions operable to
2 cause a programmable processor to display the visual representation include instructions
3 operable to cause a programmable processor to:
4 insert the plurality of graphical elements representing the detected markers into the
5 visual composition of the content at the location of the detected markers.

1 41. The computer program product of claim 39, wherein the instructions operable to
2 cause a programmable processor to display the visual representation include instructions
3 operable to cause a programmable processor to:
4 separately display the graphical elements and the visual composition of the content.

1 42. The computer program product of claim 38, wherein the computer program product
2 further comprises instructions operable to cause a programmable processor to:
3 display a visual representation of data or attributes associated with the detected
4 markers.

1 43. The computer program product of claim 38, wherein the computer program product
2 further comprises instructions operable to cause a programmable processor to:
3 receive input navigating the cursor through the location of the detected markers; and
4 in response to the input, display a change in a location of a cursor relative to the
5 location of the markers.

- 1 44. The computer program product of claim 43, wherein the computer program product
- 2 further comprises instructions operable to cause a programmable processor to:
- 3 hide the visual representation of the detected markers when the cursor has navigated
- 4 past the location of the detected markers.